



The London NERC DTP Brief Guide for Students 2016-17



The purpose of this brief guide is to provide a simple overview of the DTP programme before you attend the induction week, starting on Monday September 26th. **During induction week you will be given ample further details about all aspects of the DTP.**

Outline of DTP programme. Figure 1 shows the 4-year timeline and elements (core research, professional development, transferable and project-oriented skills).

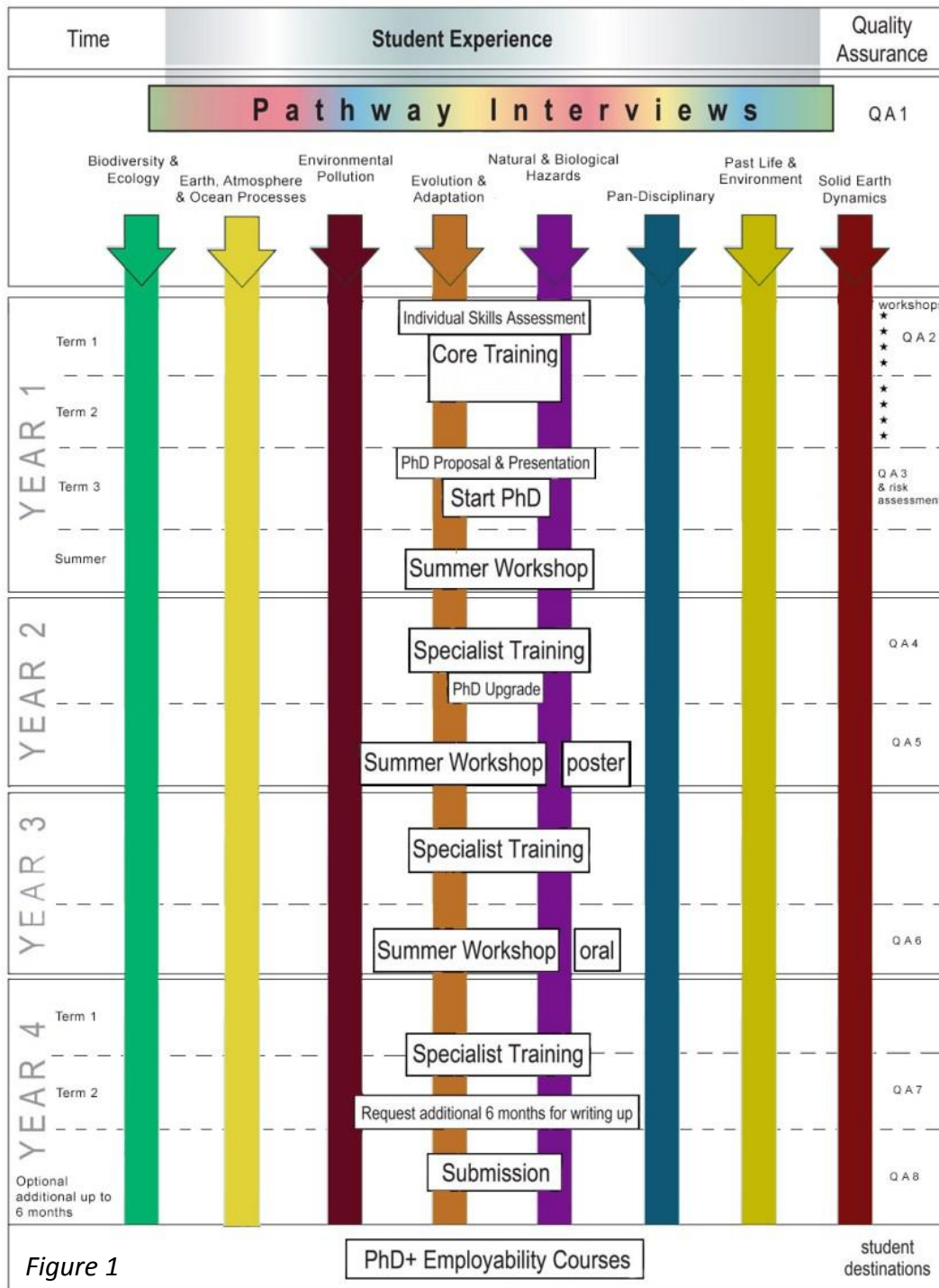


Figure 1

The Programme – Year 1

Students are required to attend at least 95% of the training in term 1 and term 2, in order to move onto their allocated PhD project

Key Dates

2016

DTP Term 1: Mon 26 September – Fri 16 December.

Weekly structure and content summarised on pages 3-4.

07-11 November “Reading Week”, includes events on Tuesday afternoon (Meet the Supervisors at UCL), all day Wednesday (Meet the Associate Partners) and Friday (Skills Friday at NHM)

2017

UCL re-opens after Christmas: Tues 03 January

DTP Term 2: Mon 09 January – Fri 30 March.

Weekly structure and content summarised on page 5.

13-17 Feb “Innovation Week”, events all week at Siemens Crystal Building, Royal Victoria Docks, East London. Funded via NERC’s Innovation strategy.

Mid- to late March: Field trip in California

Late March: Student presentations of PhD proposals

Week starting 04 September: Summer Workshop – Student-organised event

Term 1 details

Figure 2 shows the core structure of each week after Induction Week. Typically, each week is based on a 10am-5pm day and has 4 elements: a) core multidisciplinary training for 2.5 days at a DTP Partner, moving between Partners in consecutive weeks, b) meet prospective supervisors at that week’s Partner, c) attend the NHM on the Friday for ‘Skills’ events, d) a day set aside for students to network individually with potential supervisors.

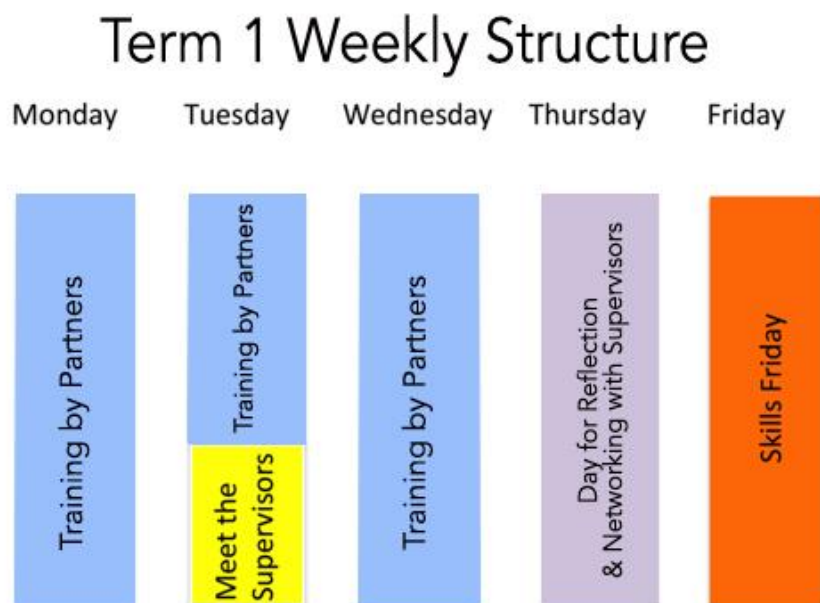


Figure 2

Training by Partners

On Mon-Wed of each week, researchers from the partners will deliver talks, practical classes and problem-solving classes on a series of current topics in environmental science. Figure 3 below summarises the content.

Week	Week start date	Topic of training by Partners	Location Monday - Wednesday	Local Organiser (email)
1	26 Sept	Induction / Earth System Science	UCL	Chris Brierley (c.brierley@ucl.ac.uk)
2	03 Oct	Earth Dynamics	UCL	Graham Shields-Zhou (g.shields@ucl.ac.uk) & Tom Mitchell (tom.mitchell@ucl.ac.uk)
3	10 Oct	Ecosystem Science	QMUL	Mark Trimmer (m.trimmer@qmul.ac.uk) & James Brasington (j.brasington@qmul.ac.uk)
4	17 Oct	Past Climates	RHUL	Danielle Schreve (Danielle.Schreve@rhul.ac.uk)
5	24 Oct	Natural Process & Hazards	BBK	Charlie Bristow (c.bristow@ucl.ac.uk) & Andrew Carter (a.carter@ucl.ac.uk)
6	31 Oct	Earth Surface Processes	KCL	Martin Wooster (martin.wooster@kcl.ac.uk)
7	07 Nov	Reading Week	UCL Events on Tues pm, Wed & Fri.	Mark Maslin (m.maslin@ucl.ac.uk) & Kevin Fowler (k.fowler@ucl.ac.uk)
8	14 Nov	Environmental Pollution & Biological Hazards	Brunel	Elisabete Silva (Elisabete.Silva@brunel.ac.uk)
9	21 Nov	Evolution	NHM	Eileen Cox (E.Cox@nhm.ac.uk) & David Murrell (d.murrell@ucl.ac.uk)
10	28 Nov	Biodiversity	KEW & UCL	Mimi Tanimoto (M.Tanimoto@kew.org), Mark Chase (& Mark Maslin (m.maslin@ucl.ac.uk)
11	05 Dec	Conservation & Behaviour	IoZ	Robin Freeman (Robin.Freeman@ioz.ac.uk) & Chris Carbone (chris.carbone@ioz.ac.uk)
12	12 Dec	Preparation for term 2 modules		

Meet the supervisors (Tuesday afternoons, weeks 2-11)

Opportunity to meet potential supervisors from each DTP Partner and discuss project ideas

Reflection & networking (Thursdays, weeks 2-6 and 8-11)

Opportunity to meet on a 1:1 basis with potential supervisors from each DTP Partner and discuss project ideas.

Skills Friday (Fridays at NHM, weeks 2-11)

Focus on transferable skills and personal development, using mix of seminars, workshops and action learning sets.

Meet the Associate Partners (Wednesday, week 7)

The DTP Partners have many links for research with external organisations (industry, NGOs, public sector). These potential Associate Partners for PhD projects will outline their research interests at a 1-day event in Reading Week (Wednesday 09 November).

Term 2 details

Figure 4 shows the key content and activities during term 2.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Statistics		Computer Modeling		
2	PhD Project Development				Statistics
3					Statistics
4					Statistics
5					Fieldwork
6					Innovation Week
7	PhD Project Development				Fieldwork
8					Fieldwork
9					Fieldwork
10	Field-trip (dates to be confirmed)				
11					

Figure 4

Statistics and Computer Modelling

Short courses in the first week of term and across consecutive Fridays.

PhD Project Development and Evaluation

At the end of term 1, students submit their 2 project choices, of equal interest. The DTP Director and Deputy Director will decide which project will be offered to each student, subject to ratification by the DTP Governing Council. Throughout term 2, students meet their supervisory team and develop a suite of PhD documents prior to giving an oral presentation of their PhD plan to their peers, DTP PhD committee and DTP Management Board in March 2017.

Final approval of the project is conditional on a satisfactory quality of presentation and plan documents.

Innovation Week

Funded by external grant award. Engagement with stakeholders; impact agenda, science policy, business in February 2017 Reading Week.

Field Trip

The entire cohort will attend a 10-day field trip to California in mid- to late March 2017. The cohort will take the lead in designing and delivering the content, with a dual focus on geological and biological samples and locations.

Term 3 Summer Workshop

This is a student-organised event, scheduled to take place in the week starting Mon 04 September. Planned, led and run by DTP students, this event includes student talks and posters, workshops on public engagement and meetings with potential Associate partners.

Finance

NERC maintenance **stipend** for 2016/17 is £16,296 per annum. This includes a London allowance of £2,000. Paid, in advance, in quarterly instalments. First payment will be made by cheque within 2 weeks of enrolment or via BACS transfer, if bank details have been supplied by student in sufficient time.

NERC **fees** for 2016/17 are £4,121 per annum. Paid, on behalf of each student, to relevant host institution by DTP – student do not pay towards this cost.

Oyster Card contribution – The DTP will contribute £200 as a top-up to each student's Oyster card to help towards travel costs incurred in the training.

Enrolment

One of your first and most important tasks is to enroll, in person. Once enrolled, you will be able to access the full range of facilities and services on offer at UCL.

When and where? Following your pre-enrolment, you will have received information from UCL about when and where to enrol. If you haven't received this please contact the [New Students Team](#). Time has been set aside on Wednesday 28th for you to enrol. Outside of allocated times you should go to the Student Centre, Chadwick Building, on the main UCL campus – follow the link to a map given in the cover email.

What to bring? You will be asked to produce your Student reference Number – this is on your offer letter from UCL. Also bring a copy of your offer letter.

You will be asked to provide an accepted form of photographic identification. The preferred form is a valid passport. If you lack a passport the following will be accepted: a UK photo driving licence, where this indicates that the owner was born in the UK; a European National Identity Card, Armed Forces Identity card. We will also accept an original birth certificate, adoption certificate or certificate of naturalization, when accompanied by additional photographic identification.